



SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 1st March, 2007

1. The Senate met at 10:30 a.m. The Senate President read Prayers.
2. Votes and Proceedings:
The Senate President announced that he had examined the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 28th February, 2007 and approved same.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

3. Announcements:
Change of Party Affiliation:
The Senate President read two letters from Senator Chris Adighije and Senator Uche Chukwumerije respectively as follows:
it)



Senator Chris Adighije PhD.

*VICE CHAIRMAN SENATE COMMITTEE ON: WATER RESOURCES, ETHICS,
CODE OF CONDUCT & PUBLIC PETITIONS
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA*

28th February, 2007

*Senator Ken Nnamani, President of the Senate, Senate Chambers, National Assembly Complex
Abuja.*

RESIGNATION FROM THE PDP (Peoples Democratic Party)

By this letter, please be informed that I have formally resigned my membership of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), after notifying my ward chairman on the 18th January 2007.

I confirm that during the so called revalidation of membership exercise, founding members of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in my Constituency were deliberately denied the opportunity in spite of their pioneering effort to build the party in my zone. Instead, the reins of authority were

brazenly handed over to decampees from other parties who were determined to reap where they did not sow.

Having failed, despite several appeals, to correct this injustice done to my aggrieved teeming supporters, I was left with no choice than to join them in the new great Party - the Progressive Peoples Alliance (PPA).

Signed:
CHRIS ADIGHIJE

(ii)



Senator Uche Chukwumerije
THE SENATE

NASS/C/SCIPN13/60

28th February, 2007

The President of Senate,
National Assembly Abuja.

Your Excellency,

CHANGE OF POLITICAL PARTY MEMBERSHIP

Recently, I read a newspaper report about the plight of a commuter in Lagos. He boarded a bus supposed to be heading towards his destination, Ikorodu town. Mid-way, the bus veered right into thefy-over leading to Abeokuta road. It was then, that it dawned on the wayfarer that he boarded a vehicle full of robbers and terrorists.

After a long period of meditation last December over the rapid degeneration of the political character of PDP, I came to the conclusion that I embarked on a wrong destination in a wrong vehicle. It is a matter of sadness to me that a party that held so much promise in the morning of its birth has degenerated into a ■ personal and personalized property of one man. Every other member has become a prisoner in a guilded cage.

I had no choice but to quit this ideological cul de sac. I informed my ward chairman accordingly on January II, 2007.

I now belong to Progressive Peoples Alliance (PPA) Party. The purpose of this letter is to update the Senate's knowledge of my political party affiliation.

I shall continue to pray that my colleagues and comrades whom I leave behind in the guilded cage will soon find their breath and re-discover their proper ideological bearing.

Thank you.

Yours in the Service of the fatherland.

Signed:
Senator Uche Chukwumerije

(ii) The Senate President acknowledged the presence of the Staff and Pupils of Solid Rock International School, Airport road, Lugbe, Abuja who were in the gallery to observe Senate proceedings.

4. Conference Committee:

Pension Rights Bill 2007:

The Senate President named the following as Senate Conferees:

(i)	Senator Felix O. Ibru	—	Chairman
(ii)	Senator Ahmed Mohammed	—	Member
(iii)	Senator Zik Sunday Ambuno	—	Member
(iv)	Senator Veronica Iyabo Anisulowo	—	Member
(v)	Senator Hayatu Bello Gwarzo	—	Member
(vi)	Senator Tawar U. Wada	—	Member

5. Matter of Urgent Public Importance:

Demise of late Emir of Daura, Alhaji Muhammadu Bashir:

Rising on Rules 42 and 52, Senator Mahmud Kanti Bello drew attention of the Senate to the demise of the Emir of Daura, Alhaji Muhammadu Bashir. He sought and obtained leave of the Senate for the matter to be discussed forthwith:

Motion made and Question Proposed: That whereas His Royal Highness, the late Emir of Daura, Alhaji Muhammadu Bashir died on Sunday, 25th February, 2006 at the age of 82;

WHEREAS, the late Muhammadu Bashir was turbaned in 1966 as the 59th Emir of Daura and was a First Class Emir until his death;

WHEREAS, the Sate Emir was a renowned Northern Traditional Ruler and First Class politician having been elected as a Member of the Northern House of Assembly;

WHEREAS, the late Emir was appointed by the former Prime Minister of Northern Nigeria, Alhaji Sir Ahmadu Bello, as the First Minister of Local Government for Northern Nigeria and later as the Minister for Economic Planning; and

WHEREAS, it was to the credit of the late Emir that he was appointed to lead a campaign delegation of the amalgamation of the Northern Cameroun with the Federal Republic of Nigeria and succeeded in bringing Northern Cameroon to join the Federal Republic of Nigeria;

Be it resolved:

- (i) That the Senate do write a letter of condolence to the Government and people of Katsina State and especially the people of Katsina and Daura Emirate Council.
- (ii) That the Senate do send a delegation to condole with the people of Katsina and Daura Emirate Council.

*Debate:**Prayer (i):*

That the Senate do write a letter of condolence to the Government and people of Katsina State and especially the people of Katsina and Daura Emirate Council — *Agreed to.*

Prayer (ii):

That the Senate do send a delegation to condole with the people of Katsina and Daura Emirate Council — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:

- (i) That the Senate do write a letter of condolence to the Government and people of Katsina State and especially the people of Katsina and Daura Emirate Council.
- (ii) That the Senate do send a delegation to condole with the people of Katsina and Daura Emirate Council (*S. Res/012/07*).

6. Presentation of Bill:

Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (Establishment, etc) Act (Amendment) Bill 2007 (**SB. 352**):
— *Read the First Time.*

7. London Club Debt Redemption:

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do consider the request of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief to incorporate the Budgetary Requirements for the Redemption of the Promissory Notes into the Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2007 (on the part of the Total Stock of Debts owed to the London Club of Creditors) (*Senate Majority Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

Request accordingly referred to Committees on Appropriation and Local and Foreign Debts to report within one week.

8. Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development:

Conference Report on the National Agriculture Development Fund (NADF) Bill 2007 (SB. 98):

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do receive and adopt the Conference Report on the National Agricultural Development Fund (NADF) Bill 2007 (*Senator Hosea O. Ehinlanwo*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report presented and Laid.

»

Debate:

Motion made and Question Proposed:

- (i) That the Bill be recommitted to the Conference Committee for further legislative action; and
- (ii) That the Senate do reconstitute composition of the Conferees to handle the Report at the Conference Committee (*Senator Udoma Udo Udoma*).

Question put and agreed to.

9. Committee on Science and Technology:

Conference Report on the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) Bill 2007 (SB. 103):

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do receive the Conference Report on the National Information Technology Development Agency (**NITDA**) Bill 2007 (SB. 103) (*Senator Dansadu S. , Mohammed*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report presented and Laid.

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do adopt the Conference Report on the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) Bill 2007 (*Senate Majority Leader*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report accordingly adopted.

10. Committee on Niger Delta:

Report on the Niger Delta Development Commission Act (Amendment) Bill 2007 (SB. 05):

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do receive and consider the Report of the Committee on Niger Delta, on the Niger Delta Development Commission Act (Amendment) Bill 2007 (*Senator Patrick Osakwe*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report presented and Laid.

11. Ad-Hoc Committee on Economic and Financial Crimes Commission:
Report of the Ad-hoc Committee on Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC):
Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do receive and consider the report of the Ad-hoc Committee on Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) on issues raised in the Senate President's Remarks on the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) (*Senator Lawal Shuaibu*).

Question put and agreed to.

Report presented and Laid.

12. Committee on Petroleum Resources (Upstream):
Report on the Nigerian Content Development in the Oil and Gas Industry Bill 2007 (SB. 280):
Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do consider the Report of the Committee on Petroleum Resources (Upstream) on the Nigerian Content Development in the Oil and Gas Industry Bill 2007 (*Senator Lee L. Maeba*).

Question put and agreed to.

Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do resolve into the Committee of the Whole to consider the Report (*Senate Majority Leader*).

Question put and agreed to,

(SENATE IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE) A BILL FOR AN ACT TO

PROVIDE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NIGERIA CONTENT IN THE NIGERIAN OIL
AND GAS INDUSTRY; FOR NIGERIAN CONTENT PLAN; FOR SUPERVISION, COORDINATION, MONITORING
AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NIGERIAN CONTENT AND FOR MATTERS INCIDENTAL THERETO.

Debate:

Further consideration deferred to a later date.

Chairman to report progress.

(SENATE IN PLENARY)

The Senate President reported that the Senate in the Committee of the Whole considered the Report of the Committee on Petroleum Resources (Upstream) on the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development Bill 2007 and deferred further consideration to a later date.

13. Adjournment:
Motion made and Question Proposed: That the Senate do adjourn till Tuesday, 6th March, 2007 at 10.00 a.m. (*Senate Majority Leader*).

Adjourned accordingly at 1. 10 p.m.

Ken Nnamani, GCON
President of the Senate